

# *Executive Proclamation*

## *State of South Dakota*

### *Office of the Governor*

*Whereas*, South Dakota was founded with hard work, perseverance, dedication to duty, and concern for others, and the freedoms and liberties we are blessed to enjoy are a direct result of the courage, devotion, and sacrifice of the members of our Armed Forces; and,

*Whereas*, The Purple Heart is the oldest military decoration in the present use and initially created as the Badge of Military Merit by General George Washington in 1782 and was the first American service award or decoration made available to the common soldier and is specifically awarded to members of the United States Armed Forces who have been wounded or paid the ultimate sacrifice in combat with a declared enemy of the United States of America; and,

*Whereas*, The mission of the Military Order of the Purple Heart is to foster an environment of goodwill among the combat-wounded veteran members and their families, promote patriotism, support legislative initiatives, and most importantly – make sure we never forget; and,

*Whereas*, The Military Order of the Purple Heart and the Wounded Warriors Family Support have partnered to sponsor the “Purple Heart Run” which will travel coast to coast in an effort to raise awareness that mobility is freedom; and,

*Whereas*, On July 18-20, 2017, the Purple Heart Run will travel the Purple Heart Trail from Sioux Falls to Rapid City, honoring the sacrifices that have been paid for our nation’s freedom; and,

*Whereas*, It is fitting and proper as Governor to recognize the sacrifices our Purple Heart recipients made in defending our freedom and believe it is important that we acknowledge them for their courage and show them the honor and support they have earned:

*Now, Therefore, I, Dennis Daugaard*, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim July 18-20, 2017, as

## **PURPLE HEART RUN DAYS**

in South Dakota, and encourage the citizens of the state of South Dakota to show their appreciation for the sacrifices the Purple Heart recipients have made in defending our freedoms.



*In Witness Whereof*, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Tenth Day of July in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seventeen.

*Dennis Daugaard*  
Dennis Daugaard, Governor

Attest:

*Shantel Krebs*  
Shantel Krebs, Secretary of State